



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7708 | FAX (517) 373.1450

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/)

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Contact: Scott Starr  
517-373-7708

## **Senate increases funding for bovine tuberculosis testing to protect residents' health and farmers' livelihoods**

**LANSING** – Michigan will see increased testing for bovine tuberculosis in cattle thanks to funding included in the state Department of Agriculture budget, Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, announced today.

The testing will include both whole herd and individual animals in the target areas within Michigan.

“Additional testing allows us to follow through on our promise to keep Michigan in split-state status,” Gilbert said. “Most of our herds are unaffected by bovine TB and the farmers do not need to be unjustly penalized.”

Usually, states are prohibited from selling and shipping cattle out of the state if there have been cases of bovine TB. Michigan has been granted special “split state” status since the bovine TB has been contained and regular testing continues.

The counties included in the target area are: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle. Also, portions of Iosco and Ogemaw counties that are north of the southernmost boundaries of the Huron National Forest and the Au Sable State Forest also are included.

“I’m pleased to see this one budgetary action helping protect both residents’ health and farmers’ livelihoods,” Gilbert said. “We need to do what’s necessary to maintain a healthy economic climate for agriculture in Michigan.”

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